

Message Text

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16

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 /088 W

----- 070959

R 180815Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2351

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 1581

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNDP

SUBJ: CERP 0008 - EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 064907

SUMMARY

GOS IS CURRENTLY EMPHASIZING DEVELOPMENT OF MORE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL INDUSTRIES AND TRAINING OF TECHNICALLY SKILLED PERSONNEL. ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UN PROGRAMS HAS PROVEN TO BE EFFECTIVE AND USEFUL TO SINGAPORE, PARTICULARLY UNIVERSITY AND GOVERNMENT RESEARCH PROJECTS AND TECHNICAL FELLOWSHIPS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN SINGAPORE:

A. ROLE OF UNDP IN UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM.

THE UNDP REPRESENTATIVE, RESIDENT IN KUALA LUMPUR, APPEARS TO BE EFFECTIVE LEADER OF UNDP ACTIVITIES IN SINGAPORE. UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ARE OPERATING SMOOTHLY AND GOS IS SATISFIED WITH PERFORMANCE OF UNDP REPRESENTATIVE.

B. COORDINATION OF ALL EXTERNAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

GOS HAS NO FORMAL MECHANISM TO COORDINATE AID. UN ASSISTANCE UNCLASSIFIED

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AND AID FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION ARE HANDLED BY MINISTRY OF FINANCE REVENUE DIVISION. THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE IS NORMALLY KEPT INFORMED OF ALL OTHER AID ACTIVITIES BUT IT IS NOT COORDINATING BODY.

PERMANENT SECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COLOMBO PLAN PROGRAMS IN SINGAPORE. COLOMBO PLAN STAFF COLLEGE FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION WAS ESTABLISHED IN SINGAPORE IN MID-1974 TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF TECHNICIAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE STAFF COLLEGE IS UNDER JURISDICTION OF MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. ASEAN ASSISTANCE IS CHanneLED THROUGH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE UN REPRESENTATIVE TAKES A YEARLY (NORMALLY IN JANUARY) INVENTORY OF ALL ASSISTANCE, BOTH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL, PROVIDED TO SINGAPORE. THIS HAS PROVEN TO BE AN EFFECTIVE CHECK ON POSSIBLE DUPLICATION OF AID ACTIVITIES.

C. ROLE OF RES REP VIS-A-VIS OTHER UN SYSTEM ACTIVITIES
EMBASSY BELIEVES PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF UN RES REP INVOLVE SOLELY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN WHICH REP IS OBVIOUSLY QUITE ACTIVE AND USEFUL. REP'S ROLE VIS-A-VIS OTHER UN ACTIVITIES NOT KNOWN TO EMBASSY OR GOS OFFICIALS CONTACTED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS REPORT.

D. COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEWS
SINGAPORE PROGRAM FOR UNDP ASSISTANCE IS SUBMITTED EVERY THREE YEARS. THE CURRENT PROGRAM ENDS THIS YEAR. DURING THE THREE YEARS, THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE REGULARLY REVIEWS AND MONITORS THE PROGRAM OF ALL UNDP PROJECTS.
A TRIPARTITE REVIEW (SEE G) IS HELD OCCASIONALLY WITH EMPHASIS ON REVIEWING THE LARGER PROJECTS. NO MAJOR PROGRAM DEFICIENCIES HAVE BEEN UNCOVERED BUT REVIEWS HAVE RESULTED FROM TIME TO TIME IN MINOR CHANGES IN GRANT AMOUNTS AND OCCASIONAL PERSONNEL SHIFTS.

E. APPRAISAL OF PROPOSED PROJECTS
PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR 1976-1978 ARE NOW BEING DRAWN UP. THE UNDP RES REP HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, AND OTHER AGENCIES WHICH WILL BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN SPECIFIC PROJECTS, TO DESIGN AND APPRAISE PROJECTS FOR UNDP FUNDING APPROVAL. 1976-78 PROPOSAL REQUESTS UNDP FUNDING OF CLOSE TO US\$5 MILLION. THIS IS SLIGHT INCREASE FROM APPROXIMATELY 1.5 MILLION ANNUAL UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPENDITURE 1972-75. THERE WILL BE 20 PROJECTS, MOST OF WHICH ARE CARRYOVERS FROM PREVIOUS THREE YEAR PROGRAM. NEW MAJOR PROJECTS INCLUDE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH RESEARCH AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR CIVIL AVIATION FLIGHT AND TRAFFIC CONTROL TRAINING. SEVERAL ONGOING PROJECTS WHICH THE GOS CONSIDERS PARTICULARLY VALUABLE WILL CONTINUE TO BE EXPANDED UNDER THE COUNTRY PROGRAM PROPOSAL. THESE ARE THE ANIMAL WASTE MANAGEMENT RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY THE PRIMARY PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT AND APPLIED METALLURGICAL RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.

F. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION
GOS IS VERY SATISFIED WITH ALL UNDP PROJECTS. NONE SEEM PARTICULARLY

WEEK AND SEVERAL ARE CITED AS QUITE USEFUL AND SUCCESSFUL SUCH AS BIRTH CONTROL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR PERSONNEL OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE.

G. PROJECT EVALUATION

A TRIPARTITE REVIEW OF ANY ONE SPECIFIC PROJECT IS HELD OCCASIONALLY WHENEVER THE NEED ARISES. UN REPRESENTATIVES, THE GOS MINISTRY OF FINANCE REVENUE DIVISION REP AND OFFICIALS FROM THE AGENCY IN WHICH THE PROJECT IS BEING CARRIED OUT, ATTEND THESE MEETINGS. THE REVIEW PROCEDURE HAS BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE UN PROGRAMS. THE UN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDS ALL EVALUATION MEETINGS.

H. WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

WOMEN IN SINGAPORE ARE PLAYING AN INCREASINGLY ACTIVE PART IN CONTRIBUTING TO SINGAPORE'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS. HOWEVER, NEITHER THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE NOR ANY OTHER AGENCY OR GOVERNMENT BODY IN SINGAPORE HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY MANDATED TO MONITOR THE PROGRESS OF WOMEN OR TO EVALUATE OR UPGRADE THE ROLE THEY PLAY IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

I. FOLLOW-UP WITH UNDP AND EXECUTING AGENCIES

EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO MATTERS CONCERNING UNDP IN SINGAPORE WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN UP BY US MISSIONS. CRONK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CERP 0008
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SINGAP01581
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750136-0420
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197504104/baaaauts.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> sph 971124
Subject: n/a
TAGS: EAID, SN, UNDP
To: STATE INFO KUALA LUMPUR
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006